

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115806

61

ORIGIN EUR-12

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R 170121Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, PBOR, CA

SUBJECT: NOTE TO CANADIANS ON PLANNED ACTIONS IN GULF OF MAINE

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE ON MAY 15 GAVE CANADIAN EMBASSY DCM NOTE ON U.S. INTENTION TO (1) ISSUE A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF AREAS IN GULF OF MAINE TO BE OPENED SUBSEQUENTLY FOR LEASING FOR EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES AND (2) CONDUCT CERTAIN DEEP SEA DRILLING OPERATIONS IN GULF OF MAINE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NOTE.

BEGIN TEXT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS THE EMBASSY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 STATE 115806

CANADA TO THE INTEREST OF BOTH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN AN AMICABLE DELIMITATION OF THE BOUNDARY OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE GULF OF MAINE.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ACCORDINGLY WISHES TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA CERTAIN MEASURES BEING PLANNED RELATING TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THE GULF OF MAINE. FIRST, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WISHES TO NOTE THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR EXPECTS TO ISSUE A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS IN THE GULF OF MAINE AREA PURSUANT TO UNITED STATES

DOMESTIC LEGISLATION RELATING TO THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF. IN RESPONSE TO THIS ACTION, INTERESTED PERSONS MAY INDICATE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR THOSE AREAS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF WHICH SHOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE OPENED FOR LEASING FOR EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES. THERE WILL BE NO LEGAL OBLIGATION FOR ANY AREAS SO NOMINATED TO BE OFFERED FOR LEASING. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE PROCESS OF TRACT EVALUATION INITIATED BY THE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS.

THE AREA WITHIN WHICH NOMINATIONS WILL BE SOUGHT LIES WITHIN TWO HUNDRED MILES OF THE U.S. COASTLINE AND TO THE SOUTH AND WEST OF LINES DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

THE LINE DRAWN FROM A POINT AT
42# 21' 14.63"N, 67# 46' 33.97"W
THENCE TO 42# 20' 12.85"N, 66# 40' 10.00"W
TO 42# 17' 37.35"N, 66# 40' 15.74"W TO
42# 17' 04.96"N, 66# 15' 49.99"W TO
42# 09' 18.60"N, 66# 16' 10.12"W TO
42# 08' 57.85"N, 66# 02' 14.57"W TO
42# 03' 47.00"N, 66# 02' 29.05"W TO
42# 03' 57.56"N, 65# 50' 33.77"W TO
41# 58' 46.66"N, 65# 50' 19.92"W TO
41# 58' 56.77"N, 65# 43' 23.25"W TO
41# 53' 45.84"N, 65# 43' 10.02"W TO
41# 53' 50.72"N, 65# 39' 41.94"W TO
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PAGE 03 STATE 115806

THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE LINE OF LONGITUDE
AT 65# 49' 41.94"W.

NOTE: SYMBOL # SIGNIFIES DEGREES.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT THIS AREA MAY EXTEND INTO AN AREA WITHIN WHICH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED. HOWEVER, IT NOTES THAT THE SOLICITATION OF NOMINATIONS DOES NOT OF ITSELF OBLIGATE THE UNITED STATES

TO TAKE ANY FURTHER MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO THIS AREA
PENDING FURTHER EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE LOCATION OF SUCH
BOUNDARY.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO WISHES TO BRING TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THE INTENTION OF THE
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO CONDUCT CERTAIN DEEP
SEA DRILLING OPERATIONS WITHIN THE GULF OF MAINE DURING
THE COURSE OF THE COMING SUMMER AS A PORTION OF THE DEEP
SEA DRILLING PROGRAM. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ONE OR MORE
OF SUCH DRILLING OPERATIONS MAY TAKE PLACE WITHIN AN AREA
IN WHICH THE PRECISE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES

AND CANADA MAY NOT HAVE BEEN RESOLVED. THE UNITED STATES
WISHES TO ASSURE THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THAT THE STRICT-
EST ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS WILL BE MAINTAINED DURING THE
COURSE OF THESE OPERATIONS.

THE ABOVE MEASURES CONTEMPLATED BY UNITED STATES AUTHORI-
TIES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES
CONCERNING THE APPROPRIATE DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINEN-
TAL SHELF AND THE RIGHTS OF THE UNITED STATES IN ACCORDANCE
WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. THEY DO NOT, HOWEVER, ENTAIL THE
CREATION OF ANY PRIVATE RIGHTS. THE CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY APPROPRIATE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE
POSSIBLE ABSENCE OF AN AGREED BOUNDARY IN THE AFFECTED
AREA.

THE UNITED STATES FURTHER NOTES THAT ITS CONTEMPLATED
ACTIONS ARE NOT DISSIMILAR TO THOSE ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA WITHIN THE AREA IN QUESTION. THESE
ACTIONS WERE THE SUBJECT OF THE UNITED STATES NOTE OF
NOVEMBER 5, 1969 AND AN ACCOMPANYING NOTICE IN THE FEDERAL
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PAGE 04 STATE 115806

REGISTER.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ALSO WISHES TO TAKE THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE ITS DESIRE THAT NEGOTIATIONS
CONCERNING THIS CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE U.S.
AND CANADA MAY BE RESUMED IN THE COMING MONTHS. IT IS
HOPED THAT THIS MATTER WILL BE FINALLY AND AMICABLY RE-
SOLVED ON MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY TERMS. END TEXT.

IN HANDING OVER NOTE, VINE SAID THAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR-
WARD TO RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CANADIANS ON
CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARIES ESPECIALLY IN GULF OF MAINE.
WE HOPED THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD PROCEED PROMPTLY
AND AMICABLY AND LEAD TO MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY OUTCOME.
WITH THIS IN MIND, US WANTED GOC TO BE AWARE OF PLANNED

U.S. ACTIONS DESCRIBED IN NOTE WHICH WERE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE BELIEVED TO BE OUR RIGHTS IN CONTINENTAL SHELF IN THAT AREA. THESE ACTIONS CANNOT BE DELAYED AND ARE REQUIRED BY THE LEASING PROCESS. VINE EMPHASIZED THAT NOTHING THE US INTENDS TO DO WILL CREATE PRIVATE RIGHTS OR ALTER THE PRESENT SITUATION SO AS TO MAKE NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT.

IN RESPONSE TO MCKINNEY-S QUESTIONS, VINE NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS ACTION AND LOSDEVELOPMENTS IN GENEVA. OUR ACTION WAS SIMILAR TO STEPS ALREADY TAKEN BY CANADA IN THE DISPUTED AREA AND WE HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHETHER CALL FOR NOMINATIONS WOULD IN FACT ELICIT ANY

INTEREST IN LEASES LOCATED IN DISPUTED AREA. MCKINNEY SAID HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE IN THAT AREA HAD BEEN POOR. KISSINGER

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